

SUCCESSFUL.

Experiments with Wireless Telegraphy by a Scientist.

Every seat in Carnegie Music hall was occupied recently at the lecture on "Wonders of Modern Science," delivered by W. J. Clark, of New York. Mr. Clark does not pretend to be a magician or a wizard, but he certainly did some very wonderful things. His lecture was one of the most interesting heard in this city for a long time, and the audience had an opportunity to learn more about the possibilities of electricity than they had ever imagined.

The lecturer showed how wireless telegraphy was possible, and gave a practical illustration with a transmitter on one table and a receiver on another table at the opposite side of the stage. The transmitter, he said, consists of a row of small metal balls, mounted upon a wooden base. The outside balls are connected with the terminals of an induction coil. When the current from a few cells of battery is passed through this coil by means of an ordinary telegraphic key minute sparks pass between the balls, which are placed very close together. This causes violent oscillation or disturbances, and electric waves of great rapidity are sent out into space and travel through the air or whatever obstacle may obstruct their path until they strike the receiver at a distant point.

The receiver consists of a small glass tube, in which are placed two tightly fitting plugs of metal, within a very short distance of each other. The space between the plugs is filled with a minute quantity of metallic filings, the entire tube being suitably connected with a specially arranged telegraphic outfit and local batteries. While the filings in the tube are lying loosely in their normal state, the resistance which they offer to the passage of the battery current is so very great that practically no current is allowed to pass. But the moment the invisible electric waves from the distant transmitter strikes the glass tube the filings rearrange themselves and cling to each other, forming practically a solid mass of metal between the two plugs. This rearrangement of the filings immediately reduces the resistance to almost nothing, so that the current from the battery readily passes and operates the telegraph apparatus.

Prof. Clark's experiment was entirely successful. He said wireless telegraphy could be made immediate use of for operating electric bells, signaling to ships at sea, operating district telegraph call bells and for experimental work in colleges.—Pittsburgh Press.

THE KING OF THE WOODS.

Misnamed the Mocking-Bird—The "Yankee" Among Birds.

Very few persons ever visit the southern portion of the United States and become at all familiar with its woodland life without being captivated by that prince of singers, the mocking bird. Not only as a musician, but in general "smartness," he is far and away ahead of anything else that flies. He is the "Yankee" among birds. In vivacity, in cleverness, in a quick and dexterous use of his small but brilliant brain, it would be hard to point out his equal. And when in the springtime the woods resound with his clear, flutelike, and exultant notes, even the man, if such there be, "who hath no music in his soul" would find it hard to resist the contagious good humor of his glad and gleeful song.

And yet the mocking bird (*Mimus polyglottus*) is incorrectly named. He is by no means a natural mimic. Half a dozen birds could be mentioned that in this particular far surpass him. This may seem a very strange thing to say, in view of the stories current so abundantly illustrating and emphasizing this supposed gift.

Prof. Chandler, in a notable case in a Boston court, once remarked that it was practically impossible for most people to tell the truth even if they tried. Especially is this the case in observing scientific phenomena by persons not trained in that special field. Imagination often plays strange tricks with the recording cameras in such excited brains.—Norman Robinson, in Appleton's Popular Science Monthly.

Explanatory Details.

"The first night of our engagement," remarked Mr. Stormington Barnes, tragedian, "we turned people away."

"That was gratifying," replied the friend.

"I can't say that it was. You see, the local papers got the advertisements mixed and the impression went abroad that our theater was giving the minstrel show."—Washington Star.

—A steel band may be stronger than a brass band, but the latter is more successful in holding a crowd together.

—Just because a man is slouchy is no sign that he knows much.—Washington Democrat.

GAUL AND BRITON.

Triumph of the English Language in Louisiana.

The announcement that the Louisiana constitutional convention, in session in New Orleans, proposes to drop French as one of the official languages of the state came with a lively element of surprise to many people who had never supposed that French could be an official language anywhere in this country. It seems indeed odd at this distance that the publication in French of legal documents and official notices has been a necessary formality in any state beneath the stars and stripes. But the well-known persistent inability of creoles to understand English in the days before the war continued the traditions of the past. Since the general overturning of the fortunes and influences attendant upon the new order of things the creole young people have become more Americanized. They all speak French and English with equal fluency.

Of the 134 delegates composing the present convention, only 21 were of French descent, and it is said that many of old the creole families are represented by men who do not speak French. The struggle of the French tongue to maintain its ascendancy in Louisiana since the annexation in 1803 has been virile and prolonged. That it has taken 96 years for the language of the dominating Anglo-Saxon race to drive out its ancient lingual foe proves the strength of the latter. Spanish and German families have been absorbed by the French, and harsh Teutonic names have been changed into more musical Gallic syllables.

It is true that there are still about 15,000 French speaking men in Louisiana, and perhaps three times as many women and children, but they live chiefly in the rural districts and they are rapidly learning English. Often, without doubt, it is the sort of English Cable's "Bonaventure" taught his pupils, but at all events it is not French, nor creole patois. A writer in the Sun commenting on the present lingual condition has this to say concerning the schooling of the descendants of the people from the Land of Evangeline:

"A more efficient system of public schools in the Acadian parishes would very soon get rid of it, at least of the Acadian patois. The French will survive in Louisiana, half the population still speaking it, but not as an official language, and it will in time disappear. The court proceedings will no longer be carried on in that tongue, as was so frequently the case of old, and a legislator who has the misfortune to know English will not be interrupted with cries of 'traduction'—translation—and demands that his speech be translated by the official interpreter for the benefit of the members who speak only French."

And in regard to the capital: "But if the French language has lost ground in southern Louisiana and New Orleans, the French influence has maintained itself. The customs and usages are almost entirely French, the fashions French, as well as the mode of life, the holidays. The opera is always in French, never in Italian. The music is French, even to the tremolo, and Wagner is abhorred. The paintings are French, the cuisine essentially French or creole. The people themselves do not recognize the full extent of Gallic influence. It is a remarkable instance of the triumph of French ideas, tastes and customs, at the same time that the English language has been victorious over its Gallic adversary. The strength of that language is evidenced in its success and the strong prejudice and patriotism of the creoles and French. Of all the struggles English has had, none has been harder or longer than that in Louisiana against the French."

"The Catholic church has been the most stalwart supporter of the French language in Louisiana, and it has perhaps more than anything else kept that language strong and virile. The creoles have always insisted on a French archbishop, and their influence in the church was strong enough to win. This became an important issue in the late choice of an archbishop, and the French influence was again triumphant in the election of a few months ago of the present occupant of the archiepiscopal see. But even in the Catholic church French is losing ground. In the sugar industry the French or creoles have lost much of their influence, and most of the large plantations have passed into the hands of Americans or American companies. They have lost ground in the retail trade, and in the professions, in finance, and in other branches they hold their own. But the old sentimental tie which connects them with France is almost entirely gone, and there are no truer Americans anywhere in the country."

Thus is shown anew the absorbing and assimilating power of this republic and her mother tongue.

Superfluous Words.

A philologist estimates that of every 100 words in the French language 13 are superfluous.

THE CINEMATOPHOTOGRAPH.

As an Aid to the Study of Astronomy.

When the first animated photographs were shown, few persons could have imagined that the cinematograph would shortly be used as a means of teaching astronomy. That is, however, the latest application of the invention. M. Camille Flammarion, the well-known French astronomer, has undertaken the task of photographing, or "cinematographing," the sky. The other day he informed a correspondent that he was well satisfied with the results he had already obtained. As there is no cinematographic machine which could work from sunset to sunrise, and as the apparent movement of the celestial bodies is very slow, M. Flammarion contents himself with taking between 2,000 and 3,000 photographs of the firmament every night when the sky is clear. He contends that they will be amply sufficient to show the motion of the moon, stars and planets without any perceptible break in the continuity. It appears that the object glass he employs in his photographic apparatus is such as to embrace 180 degrees, so that the whole firmament will be seen when the photographs are put into the cinematograph. Commencing at dusk, the moon and stars will, as darkness comes on, appear one after the other in proportion to their magnitude, and be seen pursuing their course in the sky till the light of the rising sun in the east produces the inverse of the phenomenon witnessed in the evening. Of course, as is commonly the case with the scenes of terrestrial life reproduced by the cinematograph, the apparent motion of the heavenly bodies will be hastened, so that their course from east to west will not occupy more than a few minutes.

M. Flammarion also stated that it was his intention to treat the spots on the sun in the same way, and that he hoped very shortly to be able, with the cinematograph, to show the inhabitants of our little planet the movements of those formidable vortices of fire in the sun's envelope as correctly as the movement of water and the breaking of the waves of the ocean are now shown. Even that is not, however, all. M. Flammarion's ambition is to complete his work by photographing all the phases of the planets, and present them to the public by means of the cinematograph. He thinks that with patience that task will not present insurmountable obstacles. It is at present impossible, and it will probably always remain impossible, to photograph the movement of the earth in space as seen from the moon, or from one of the planets; but with the object of producing the illusion, M. Flammarion has photographed a globe he constructed for the purpose and placed in a hall in front of a background representing the sky. The globe, lighted by one single source of light, representing the sun, and revolving on its axis by means of a clockwork arrangement, was photographed for the cinematograph. The animated photographs representing that scene, shown by M. Flammarion at the last meeting of the French Astronomical society, were greatly admired and won hearty applause for their author.—London Standard.

LAW FOR FAT MEN.

Curious Case Recently Decided in a French Court.

The correctional court at Lille, France, had a curious case before it recently, when an unusually fat man, named Payelle, who turns the scale at 340 pounds, was summoned for contravening the regulations of the railway company. Payelle, who is a chemist, paid for a third-class ticket, but on account of his size he could not get into either a third or second-class compartment. He, therefore, took a seat in a first-class vehicle, and refused to pay the difference in the fares. He argued that when the company sold him a third-class ticket it was for them to find him a place in a third-class carriage, and as he could not get into one he was entitled to take a place in the only carriage the doorway of which was big enough to admit him.

The court did not agree with the views he expressed, but upheld the contention of the railroad company, which argued that if he could not get into a third-class carriage he should take a ticket entitling him to ride in a compartment of the class into which he could squeeze himself. The court decided that, as only a first-class vehicle could hold him, he should have booked first-class. It therefore ordered him to pay the difference in the fares and all the costs of the case.—London Telegraph.

One Beauty of Cremation.

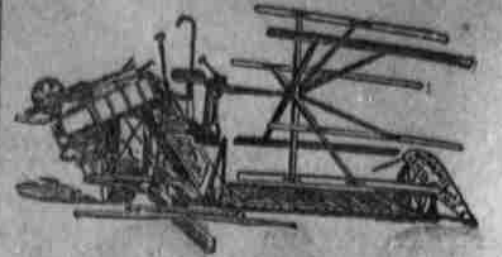
"Yes; the poor boy is to be cremated to-day."

"Well, that's a quick way of getting acclimated."—Town Topics.

—The polka dance was introduced into England about 1844. It was invented between 1830 and 1834 in Bohemia, and obtained its name in Prague in 1836.

The Milwaukee

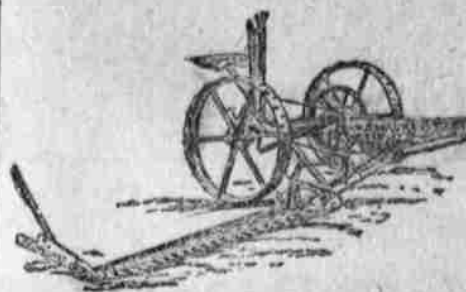
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Extra Fancy French Balbriggan for 50c a garment, or a suit for 98c

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Made of good muslin, with embroidered collar and cuffs, embroidered box plated front, pearl buttons and a good length.....50c
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No. 51—Fast Mail..... 5:18 p. m.

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No. 92—Chicago Limited 9:36 a. m.

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